THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d). The opening of branches of the commercial banks under the extant branch licensing policy is a continuous process, which is governed by licences issued by Reserve Bank of India in this regard. As no specific targets are fixed for opeing of branches of commercial banks during a year, it is not possible at this stage, to project the number of bank branches that will be opened in various States including Rajasthan.

[*Translation*] 249

Pension to Widows of Soldiers killed in Second World War

5987. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for giving Rs. 16 to 30 only as monthly pension till date to the widows of the soldiers killed in second world war;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the said pension amount; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c). As a consequence of increase of minimum monthly pension to Rs. 375/- per month, with effect from 1.1.1986, and grant of dearness relief, the minimum monthly Family Pension now works out to Rs. 567/- per month including Rs. 192/- as dearness relief at the current rate. The widows of the soldiers of Second World War are entittled to this benefit.

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Appointment of Retiring Service officer in Public Sector Undertakings

5988. SHRI BHUWANCHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the process of calling retiring service officers for interview in Public Sector Undertakings for Board level appointments is merely an eye wash;

(b) whether in most of the cases the officers are called for when the interview dates are already over or nearing to over;

(c) whether Army Headquarters hav taken up the case with the concerned authorities pointing out the above shortcomings; and

(d) the nember of service officers selected as Managing Directors of various public sector undertakings during 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Referring to the poor intake of retiring Service officers in the Public Sector Undertakings, the Army Hqrs had, *inter-alia*, suggested that a certain number of senior posts in the PSUs should be filled by suitable qualified senior officers of the Army. The issues raised by the Army Headquarters have since been looked into, in consultation with the Department of Public Enterprises.

(d). Three Managing Directors, six Chairmen cum Managing Directors and two Chairman, who are also Chief Executives, were selected from the Defence Services during 1990-91.

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Complaints Against M/s. Favourite Small Investment Limited Delhi

5989. DR. G. L. KANAUJIA:
SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have re-